

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 OMB-01 IO-11 SSM-03 AID-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SCCT-01 ACDA-07 /100 W

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R 031240Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1639

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4407

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG

SUBJECT: ASU ORGANIZATION GETS UNDERWAY

REF: CAIRO 4177

SUMMARY. WITH PRIMIN AND CABINET HAVING JOINED CENTER GROUP OF THE THREE NEW ASU POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS, OVERWHELMING NUMBER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY MEMBERS ARE FLOCKING TO CENTRIST BANNER. RIGHTIST GROUP HAS ATTRACTED LESS THAN TEN ADHERENTS. ON LEFTIST FRONT, NASSERISTS ARE SEEKING WREST CONTROL "NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION" FROM GOE'S CHOICE, COMMUNIST KHALID MUHI AL-DIN. LEADERS OF NASSERIST TAKE-OVER BID ARE RELATIVELY OBSCURE AND WE DOUBT THAT THE MANY SECRET NASSERISTS IN ASSEMBLY INTEND ADMIT THEIR ANTI-SADATIST PRINCIPLES BY OPENLY JOINING KHALID'S GROUP.

END SUMMARY.

1. AS CONSTITUENT COMMITTEES OF THE THREE NEW ASU POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS BEING WORK, IT IS EVIDENT THAT CENTER GROUP, IN LARGE PART BECAUSE PRIMIN IS ITS
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RAPPORTEUR AND ALL CABINET BELONG TO IT, IS ATTRACTING

FAR AND AWAY THE MOST MEMBERS. FIVE HUNDRED ADHERENTS ATTENDED INITIAL MEETING AND ELECTED MRS. SADAT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW ABU WAFIYA AS SYG. BY CONTRAST, RIGHTIST GROUP UNDER RAPPORTUER MUSTAFA MURAD ATTRACTED ONLY SIX ASU MEMBERS. MURAD HAS CLEARLY HAD DIFFICULTY WRITING PLATFORM SUFFICIENTLY "RIGHTIST" TO DIFFER FROM CENTER GROUP, BUT NOT SO RIGHTIST THAT HE CAN BE ACCUSED OF REPRESENTING ANCIENT REGIME RESURGENCE (SEPTEL).

2. VICISSITUDES OF LEFTIST GROUP ARE CONSIDERABLE. BOTH COMMUNIST KHALID MUHI AL-DIN, GOE'S CHOICE TO HEAD GROUP, AND NASSERIST KAMAL AHMAD HAD PUBLIC DEBATE WITH SADAT ON LIVE TELEVISION MARCH 27 ABOUT NASSERISTS' PLACE IN NEW ASU SCHEME. KHALID HAD SAID NASSERISTS WOULD BE "MAIN FORCE" OF HIS ORGANIZATION, BUT SADAT THOUGHT ALL EGYPTIANS ARE NASSERISTS. WHEN KHALID'S GROUP MET INITIALLY, AKHBAR CLAIMED ONLY 13 ATTENDED AND THAT NASSERISTS INSISTED KHALID GIVE WAY AS RAPPOREUR TO NASSERIST KAMAL AL-DIN RIF'AT. WHEN KHALID POINTED OUT RIF'AT IS INELIGIBLE AS HE IS NOT ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, NASSERISTS PUT FORWARD NAME OF KAMAL AHMAD, WHO IS. NO RAPPOREUR WAS ELECTED, THOUGH GOE'S UNOFFICIAL ENDORSEMENT REMAINS FOR KHALID.

3. MININFO TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT NASSERISTS' EFFORT JOIN KHALID'S ORGANIZATION WAS TURNED DOWN BY KHALID DURING THIS INITIAL MEETING, MEANING THAT NASSERISTS WOULD PRESUMABLY JOIN NO ORGANIZATION AND ACT AS INDEPENDENT ASSEMBLY MEMBERS. (ALTHOUGH SPEAKER MAR'I SAID ON MARCH 17 INDEPENDENTS MIGHT, IF THEY WISH, FORM FOURTH ORGANIZATION TO BE CALLED FORUM OF INDEPENDENTS, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT UNLIKELY NASSERISTS WILL BE PERMITTED PLATFORM OF A FOURTH LEGAL GROUPING TO SOUND OFF ABOUT SADATIST DEVIATION FROM NASSERIST TRUTH. MAR'I HIMSELF ON MARCH 17 POINTEDLY NOTED THAT SOME OLD POLITICIANS ERRONEOUSLY BELIEVE THAT IN NEW FREE ATMOSPHERE THEY CAN CONTROL EGYPT POLITICALLY.")
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3. JUDGING FROM SUBSEQUENT REPORTS IN AKHBAR, NASSERIST MEMBERSHIP IN LEFTIST GROUPING IS STILL POSSIBILITY AND KAMAL AHMAD SEEMS TO BE DRIVING FORCE IN NASSERIST EFFORT GAIN CONTROL OF LEFTIST GROUP. KHALID, WHO OTHERWISE WILL HAVE WEAK ASSEMBLY BLOC, MAY FIND IT EXPEDIENT TRY TO WORK OUT SOME ACCOMMODATION WITH NASSERISTS TO GET THEM IN AND INFLATE HIS VOTING

PWOER, BUT SINCE THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY VOTE WITH HIM
ANYWAY, WE CANNOT SEE WHY HE WOULD COMPROMISE VERY
MUCH.

4. A STRIKING ASPECT OF CURRENT SELF-PROCLAIMED
"NASSERIST" EFFORT GAIN LEGAL PLATFORM IS THE
APPARENT DEARTH OF LEADERS WHO ARE PREPARED STAND
UP FOR THEIR NASSERIST BELIEFS. KAMAL RIF'AT,
SECOND-RANK FREE OFFICER, IS NOT REPECTED FIGURE.
KAMAL AHMAD, ABOUT 35 YEARS OLD, IS WORKER AT STARCH
AND YEAST COMPANY IN ALEXANDRIA. HE JOINED SHORT-
LIVED SOCIALIST NASSERITE FORUM, PROCLAIMED BY
RIF'AT AT TIME WHEN MINBARS WERE PROLIFERATING.
AKHBAR CLAIMS HE IS IN CLOSE CONSULTATION ON ASU
PROBLEM WITH RIF'AT, LIBYAN PRESS OFFICE HEAD, AND
HAYKAL, WHICH IS GUARANTEED TO MAKE HIM UNPALATABLE
TO SADAT. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO GUESS HOW MANY MEMBERS
OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY ARE SPIRITUAL NASSERISTS IN THE
SENSE OF DISTRUSTING SADAT'S SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND
ECONOMIC OPEN DOOR. NUMBER IS UNDOUBTEDLY HIGH, BUT
CONSIDERABLY FEW OF THESE SECRET NASSERISTS WOULD BE
WILLING TO ADMIT TO THEIR POLITICAL DEVIATION. MOST
WILL TAKE EXPEDIENT PATH AND SIGN UP WITH SALIM'S
GROUP RATHER THAN IDENTIFY WITH LEFTISTS, ESPECIALLY
WHEN LEFTISTS' LEADER IS WELL-KNOWN COMMUNIST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY LEADERS, PARTY MEETINGS, CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAIRO04407
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0566
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604101/aaaadiou.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 4177
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASU ORGANIZATION GETS UNDERWAY
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, ASU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006